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[Typed 8 July 2012 by IB from a photocopy proved by Ian Bracher]

Dora Hall to Sarah Bracher, n.d. [c.December 1894]

Hay Street

West Perth

My dear Sister

I am sure you must think me a very bad correspondent it is so long since I have sent you a line, I really do not find time to fulfil my duties properly I do exert myself, but soon get tired and require so much rest now.

We have not heard anything of your son for a long time, except indirectly Gerald Hester came up from Coolgardie a few weeks before Xmas, and he had left him in good health, since then I have only heard of him through Flora, her husband Mr Stevenson is working with him I suppose and hope you hear from him often.

No doubt you have been long since informed of poor Mrs Speed's death it was a great shock and sorrow to us all her three little boys being left orphans was very sad, it is a great comfort to think that they are in such good hands.

I am quite alone now, Leslie has gone to your sister Theodosia to spend a short time at the Park He had been 5½ years in the Bank without having a holiday except for a day or two at rare intervals and I hope the thorough change of air & scene and rest from desk work will do him good Perth is not so nice as the country during the summer months, tho' of course it is more lively, there are a great many people here now, on Saturday nights Hay Street is crowded to such a degree that it is difficult to walk along it and there are so many new buildings in every direction of a much larger size and very superior in every respect to the old houses.

Your son was saying he should like to bring you over here to see your old friends once more, I hope fortune will befriend him and enable him to gratify this desire I am sure you would not recognise the place

I am told that Valentine Hester intends to marry Miss Logue, daughter of William Logue, it will be a good thing I suppose for him to be settled and have a sensible companion for life I believe he is doing well in his business.

Old Mr Lazenby is still living but shews his great age very much now I am told, I have not seen him for a very long time.

Give my best love to Fanny and accept the same yourself with my best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year for all of you.

I do not tell you any thing about the Hesters, or the little Careys as I suppose you have heard all about them from your sister

Believe me

Yours affectionately

D A Hall

Many thanks for the *Modern Society* you kindly sent me, a *Southern Cross* came for Leslie from you by last mail, as he is at the Blackwood I must thank you for him